



Elizabeth Wrightson <(b) (6)@usna.edu>

ABC News query: Deceased midshipman

Seyler, Matthew <Matthew.Seyler@abc.com>

Sun, Jul 17, 2022 at 4:21 PM

To: "mediarelations@usna.edu" <mediarelations@usna.edu>, "pao@usna.edu" <pao@usna.edu>

Hello, I saw the terrible news about the deceased midshipman on the USNA Twitter account today. I wanted to see if you can confirm whether this is the same cadet who reportedly died on a hike in Chile after a fall Saturday. The deceased was reportedly in Chile as an exchange cadet at the Arturo Prat Naval School. Thank you very much for any clarification.

Matt Seyler

Producer/Reporter

ABC News | Pentagon

m: (b) (6) | o: (b) (6)



Elizabeth Wrightson (b) (6) @usna.edu>

Campus Reform, Request for Comment

Alexa Schwerha (b) (6) campusreform.org>

Wed, Jul 20, 2022 at 12:50 PM

Hello,

My name is Alexa Schwerha and I am a reporter for Campus Reform. I am writing an article about the NCAA Woman of the Year award and the controversy regarding the University of Pennsylvania nominating Lia Thomas. I would like to provide the opportunity to comment.

Does the university have a comment regarding the matter?

Best,

Alexa Schwerha

Campus Reform

Reporter



Elizabeth Wrightson (b) (6) @usna.edu>

Daniel V. Gallery Diorama

Martin, Emily (b) (6) @usni.org>

Mon, Jul 25, 2022 at 3:09 PM

To: "pao@usna.edu" <pao@usna.edu>, "photolab@usna.edu" <photolab@usna.edu>

Good Afternoon,

I am the photo researcher for the U.S. Naval Institute. For the upcoming issue of *Naval History*, we are looking for a photo of the Daniel V. Gallery Diorama in Bancroft Hall.

Is it possible to send us a high resolution, 300 dpi, digital photo?

Thank you,

Emily Martin

Emily Martin | Photo Researcher

USNI | [291 Wood Rd, Annapolis, MD 21402](#)

(T) 4 (b) (6) | (F) (b) (6)

<http://www.usni.org> | <http://blog.usni.org>

Daniel V. Gallery Diorama

Kenneth Aston (b) (6) usna.edu>

Tue, Jul 26, 2022 at 12:09 PM

To: "Martin, Emily" (b) (6) @usni.org>

Cc: (b) (6) <photolab@usna.edu>, Colleen Krueger (b) (6) @usna.edu>, Elizabeth Wrightson (b) (6) @usna.edu>, Madelyn Flayler (b) (6) @usna.edu>

Good Afternoon Emily

I have attached high resolution images as requested of the Daniel V. Gallery Diorama in Bancroft Hall. If you need anything else please let me know.

[Quoted text hidden]

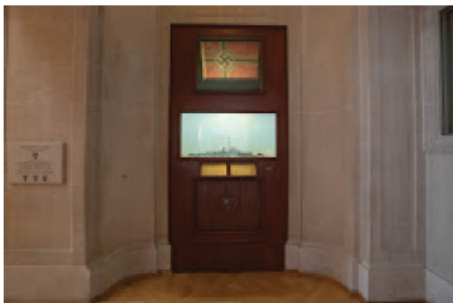
5 attachments



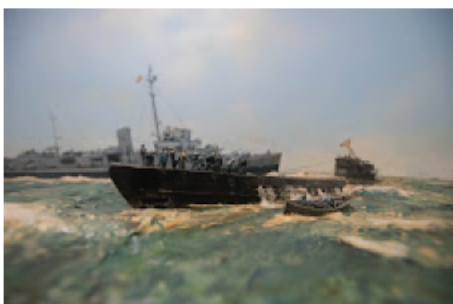
220726-N-ID676-1020.jpg
417K



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220726-N-ID676-1026.jpg
764K



220726-N-ID676-1018.jpg
397K

220726-N-ID676-1043.jpg



665K



Elizabeth Wrightson (b) (6) @usna.edu>

death of midshipman

'Weil, Martin' via Public Affairs Office <pao@usna.edu>
Reply-To: "Weil, Martin" <Martin.Weil@washpost.com>
To: "mediarelations@usna.edu" <mediarelations@usna.edu>

Mon, Jul 18, 2022 at 6:26 PM

Hello

I'm a reporter at the Post.

Can you send us something on the midshipman from New Braunfels who died in Chile?

Thank you.

Martin Weil



Elizabeth Wrightson <(b) (6) @usna.edu>

death of midshipman

Media Relations <mediarelations@usna.edu>
To: "Weil, Martin" <Martin.Weil@washpost.com>
Bcc: wrightso@usna.edu

Mon, Jul 18, 2022 at 8:01 PM

MEDIA CONTACTS: Elizabeth Wrightson, Colleen Krueger, Madelyn Flayler

PAO: CDR Alana Garas

July 18, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NAVAL ACADEMY IDENTIFIES DECEASED MIDSHIPMAN

ANNAPOLIS, Md. – The body of Midshipman 2nd Class (junior) Luke Gabriel Bird, 21, of New Braunfels, Texas, was found by Chilean authorities on July, 17, 2022, at approximately 10:30 a.m. in a lagoon of the Salto El Agua waterfall in Placilla, in the Valparaíso region of Chile.

Bird was in Chile participating in a semester abroad program at the Arturo Prat Naval Academy, which serves as Chile's Naval Academy. He reportedly lost his footing and fell over the waterfall at approximately 11:00 a.m. on July 16, 2022 while hiking with a Chilean Naval Academy student near the waterfall.

"We are incredibly saddened by the tragic loss of Midshipman Luke Bird this weekend," said Vice Adm. Sean Buck, 63rd Superintendent, U.S. Naval Academy. "My wife, Joanne, and I and the entire Naval Academy community offer our sincerest condolences to Luke's family, friends, and fellow midshipmen during this difficult time. I encourage all of our Naval Academy family to offer support to one another as we navigate the grieving process."

Bird attended New Braunfels High School where he was a three-year member of the wrestling team, and captain both junior and senior year. He was an avid cyclist, active in student government, vice president of the National Honor Society and the battalion commander of the NBHS Marine Corps JROTC unit. In November 2018, he was selected as one of only five Marine Corps JROTC cadets in the nation-wide program to receive a Legion of Valor Bronze Cross for Achievement, recognizing outstanding achievement in both scholastic and military subjects and outstanding leadership demonstrated in both school and in the community.

At the Naval Academy, Bird was a member of the 20th and 2nd Companies. He was an ocean engineering major, an active member of the Semper Fi Society, and competed with his classmates as an intramural sports athlete.

"It is hard to find the words to summarize who Luke was, so instead, I find it appropriate to talk about his actions," said Midshipman 1st Class (senior) Travis Delgado, a friend of Bird's and fellow Texan. "Luke was an unfathomably smart midshipman. We attended many courses together, allowing me to get to know him beyond just being company mates. He mentored, and tutored me in our shared courses, spending much of his free time helping me."

"He greatly exemplified the hard working midshipman who helps anyone at the drop of a hat," Delgado continued. "He was a great man and will be dearly missed by all those in 20th Company and throughout the brigade."

Bird was authorized to wear the National Defense Service Medal and had earned the Marksman Rifle Qualification Badge and Sharpshooter Pistol Qualification Badge.

The Midshipmen Development Center, Chaplain's Center, and chain of command are providing grief counseling and support services to midshipmen, faculty, and staff.

The U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. 4th Fleet, U.S. Southern Command, and the U.S. Embassy in Chile are grateful to the Chilean firefighters, police, and armed forces for their tireless efforts to locate our midshipman.

Funeral arrangements are pending; further information will be provided as it becomes available. The Naval Academy will continue to support Bird's family, friends, and loved ones during this time of grief.

Bird is survived by his mother, Audra Courter, and stepfather, Matthew Craig Courter; his father, Chad Bird, and stepmother, Stacy Bird; his sister, Auriana Mallory and husband Josh; step-siblings Candace Shover, Shelbi Nickerson, Colton Nickerson, Nakayla Courter, Tabitha Coombes and their families; grandparents Ted and Nelda Dickman, and Carson and Jeanette Bird; step-grandparents Stephen Awbrey, and David and Judy Osborne; aunts and uncles Rayna and Scott Barefoot, Annette Dickman and Colleen Aken, Cara and Mike Pilch, Rob and Stephanie Carnes, and Shannon and Kenny Kahlden; as well as 12 cousins, and eight nieces and nephews.

USNA

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2 attachments



Bird-Luke (1).jpg
1441K



014-Death of Midshipman Luke Bird release.pdf
144K



Elizabeth Wrightson <(b) (6)@usna.edu>

Diversity in STEM Schools Report 2022

Holly Mendelson <HMendelson@insightintodiversity.com>

Tue, Jul 26, 2022 at 1:01 PM

To: "(b) (6)@usna.edu" (b) (6)@usna.edu, (b) (6)@usna.edu" (b) (6)@usna.edu, (b) (6)@usna.edu" (b) (6)@usna.edu, "mediarelations@usna.edu" <mediarelations@usna.edu>

Hello Everyone,

I wanted to follow up to see if you would like to communicate your school's commitment to diversity, anti-racism and inclusion in this targeted issue of *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine.

If someone would please let me know your thoughts when you have a moment, I would greatly appreciate it. Deadline to receive artwork is 8/8/22.

[Quoted text hidden]



Elizabeth Wrightson (b) (6) @usna.edu>

Fwd: (U) Interview Request: USNA Midshipman Claire Brophy

Elizabeth Wrightson (b) (6) @usna.edu>

Thu, Jul 7, 2022 at 2:09 PM

To: (b) (6) vn77.navy.mil

Cc: CVN77 (b) (6) @cvn77.navy.mil>, Matthew Stroup (b) (6) @gmail.com>, (b) (6) @us.navy.mil, navyoutreach@navy.mil

Hi Dawn: Midshipman Brophy is currently a detailer at the Naval Academy, and she is only available during the week after 1630. Is there a day next week that you would be available at that time? We have a film crew scheduled for Wednesday at that time, so hopefully you can schedule Mon. Tues, Thurs, or Fri. Let me know -- thanks!

V/r,

~~~~~  
**Elizabeth B. Wrightson, APR**  
Director of Media Relations  
United States Naval Academy

[Quoted text hidden]



Elizabeth Wrightson (b) (6) @usna.edu>

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## Fwd: Admiral Dewey-Montojo play for 125th Battle of Manila Bay anniversary

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Dennis Posadas (b) (6) @gmail.com>  
To: pao@usna.edu

Sat, Jul 23, 2022 at 12:54 AM

For the USNA Masqueraders thanks...

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Dennis Posadas (b) (6) @gmail.com>

Date: Sat, Jul 23, 2022 at 8:03 AM

Subject: Admiral Dewey-Montojo play for 125th Battle of Manila Bay anniversary

<https://www.broadwayworld.com/off-off-broadway/article/Admiral-Montojo-One-Night-Performance-Packs-Manhattan-Repertory-Theatre-20181213>

Dear Lt. (b) (6), Lt. (b) (6), Lt. (b) (b) (6),

Hope you are well.

Would you like to evaluate a Spanish American War stage play (in English) about the post Battle of Manila Bay court martial of Spanish Almirante (Admiral) Patricio Montojo? **Next year May 1, 2023 is the 125th anniversary of America's first major overseas naval victory.**

The unique twist was that his naval foe Admiral George Dewey came to his court martial defense.

The play is inspired by Aaron Sorkin's A Few Good Men, at least from the point of view of having verbal courtroom fireworks. Audience response was actually pretty good last December 2018.

I can send the play script with no obligation on your part to use it.

Thanks,  
Dennis Posadas

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*Dennis Posadas is the Philippines-based author of Leap: A Sustainability Fable (Singapore: Pearson, 2015). His previous books include Greenergized (UK: Routledge Taylor & Francis, 2013), Jump Start: A Technopreneurship Fable (Singapore: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2009) and Rice & Chips: Technopreneurship and Innovation in Asia (Singapore: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2007). His previous opeds have been published in Bloomberg BusinessWeek, Forbes, The Guardian, San Francisco Chronicle, YaleGlobal, South China Morning Post, HK Economic Journal, Singapore Straits Times, and other publications.*



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*Dennis Posadas is the Philippines-based author of **Leap: A Sustainability Fable** (Singapore: Pearson, 2015). His previous books include **Greennergized** (UK: Routledge Taylor & Francis, 2013), **Jump Start: A Technopreneurship Fable** (Singapore: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2009) and **Rice & Chips: Technopreneurship and Innovation in Asia** (Singapore: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2007). His previous opeds have been published in *Bloomberg BusinessWeek*, *Forbes*, *The Guardian*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *YaleGlobal*, *South China Morning Post*, *HK Economic Journal*, *Singapore Straits Times*, and other publications.*



Elizabeth Wrightson (b) (6) @usna.edu>

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## Fwd: Admiral Dewey-Montojo play for 125th Battle of Manila Bay anniversary

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PAO <pao@usna.edu>

Mon, Jul 25, 2022 at 7:47 AM

To: Dennis Posadas (b) (6) @gmail.com>

Bcc: (b) (6) @usna.edu

Good morning,

Thank you for your email. We have forwarded this to the Masqueraders director for consideration. Have a great day!

V/r,

USNA Public Affairs

[Quoted text hidden]



Elizabeth Wrightson (b) (6) @usna.edu>

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## Gordana Schifanelli status

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Madelyn Flayler (b) (6) @usna.edu>

Mon, Jul 25, 2022 at 11:26 AM

To: (b) (6) usna.edu>

Cc: Colleen Krueger (b) (6) @usna.edu>, Elizabeth Wrightson (b) (6) @usna.edu>, Alana Garas <garas@usna.edu>

Hey (b) (6)

With the recent Dan Cox win in the primary, we've had a question from Baltimore Sun about whether Professor Schifanelli is still a member of USNA's adjunct faculty. I'll check with provost too, but do you happen to know?

V/r,  
Maddie

--

**Madelyn D. Flayler**

*Public Affairs Specialist*

United States Naval Academy

(b) (6) @usna.edu

Office: 410-293-2292

Direct: (b) (6)

iPhone (b) (6)



Elizabeth Wrightson (b) (6) @usna.edu>

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## History Channel documentary filming permission

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Jane Teeling (b) (6) @lonewolfmedia.com>  
To: navyinfowest@gmail.com  
Cc: Media Relations <mediarelations@usna.edu>

Mon, Jul 11, 2022 at 2:00 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Jane Teeling, and I'm a producer with Lone Wolf Media, a documentary production company located in Portland, Maine.

**We've been given permission to film a memorial service for ENS W.C. Lawton, USN, at the U.S. Naval Academy Chapel in Annapolis on Friday, July 15th, 2022.** I've been in touch with Maddie Flayler of USNA Public Affairs about the event, and she has issued said permission.

To complete paperwork on our end, we are asking that NAVINFOWEST sign the attached location release to show that we have permission to film there.

A bit of background about the film:

Lt. Lawton's plane was tragically lost at sea in 1966 during a training mission. It was discovered last year during the filming of our History Channel special, "[History's Greatest Mysteries: Expedition Bermuda Triangle](#)", narrated and hosted by Lawrence Fishburne. Our investigative dive team had been searching the ocean depths for the remains of the five TBMs of the infamous Flight 19 when they came across a military jet, which turned out to be an F-8. Lt. Lawton's family and friends watched the film and identified the plane as his, which was later confirmed by Navy reports.

News of this discovery has provided closure for Bill's family, and the family of his fiancée, who now know the resting place of their loved one. His family recently reached out to thank us and invite us to a memorial in his honor at the Naval Chapel. They also welcomed our idea to film the service as a way to resolve this story for our sequel to "Expedition Bermuda Triangle," currently in production for History Channel.

Please let me know if you have questions about this document or need any additional information in order to sign it.

Many thanks for your help.

Respectfully,

Jane

--

**Jane Teeling**  
Coordinating Producer | Lone Wolf Media  
(b) (6)



**LWM Location Release\_EBT.docx**  
16K



Elizabeth Wrightson (b) (6) @usna.edu>

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## Inquiry

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Jeffries, Brian (b) (6) @baltsun.com>  
To: mediarelations@usna.edu

Wed, Jul 6, 2022 at 10:48 AM

Good morning

My name is Brian Jeffries with the capital gazette.  
I'm looking for one of your graduates from a while ago and wondering if you could help.

His name is James Michael Bors Class of 1983.

Thanks  
Brian Jeffries  
--

**Brian Jeffries**  
*Morgan State 22'*  
*Capital Gazette Intern*  
cell (b) (6)





Elizabeth Wrightson <(b) (6)@usna.edu>

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## Inquiry

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Elizabeth Wrightson <(b) (6)@usna.edu>  
To: "Jeffries, Brian" <(b) (6)@baltsun.com>  
Cc: Media Relations <mediarelations@usna.edu>

Wed, Jul 6, 2022 at 11:16 AM

Hi Brian: We do not keep records on our graduates' contact information, but the Alumni Association does to the best of their ability. You can send your request to [shipmate@usna.com](mailto:shipmate@usna.com).

V/r,

~~~~~  
Elizabeth B. Wrightson, APR
Director of Media Relations
United States Naval Academy

[Quoted text hidden]



Elizabeth Wrightson <(b) (6)@usna.edu>

Interview Request Regarding Rep. Dwight Evans's Military Academy Diversity Legislation

Arrman Kyaw (b) (6)@diverseeducation.com>
To: "mediarelations@usna.edu" <mediarelations@usna.edu>

Mon, Jul 18, 2022 at 4:45 PM

Hello,

I'm Arrman, and I write for Diverse: Issues in Higher Education, a publication both in print (for our magazines) and digital. I'm working on an article about [U.S. Rep. Dwight Evans's military academy diversity legislation passing in the House](#). To that end, I wanted to ask if I could speak to someone from the U.S. Naval Academy about the legislation for the article. It wouldn't take more than 30 minutes.

I'm okay with either a Zoom call or a phone call.

My deadline is on Wednesday, so it'd be great to speak soon!

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Arrman Kyaw

Editorial Assistant

Diverse: Issues in Higher Education



Elizabeth Wrightson (b) (6) @usna.edu>

Interview Request Regarding Rep. Dwight Evans's Military Academy Diversity Legislation

Media Relations <mediarelations@usna.edu>

Tue, Jul 19, 2022 at 1:58 PM

To: Arrman Kyaw <(b) (6)@diverseeducation.com>

Bcc: (b) (6)@usna.edu

Arrman,

Thank you for your interest, but it would be inappropriate for the Naval Academy to comment on pending legislation.

V/r,

USNA Public Affairs

[Quoted text hidden]



Elizabeth Wrightson (b) (6) @usna.edu>

Media Inquiry

PAO <pao@usna.edu>

Tue, Jul 26, 2022 at 2:26 PM

To: "Sicard, Sarah" (b) (6) @mco.com>

Bcc: (b) (6) @usna.edu

Hey Sarah,

Interesting! I'll see if I can get a more definite answer by your deadline. Off the record, we have a temporarily assigned ensign (Class of 2022) in our office who says she can't remember ever seeing Choco Taco as an option during her four years at USNA.

V/r,
Maddie Flayler
USNA Public Affairs

[Quoted text hidden]



Elizabeth Wrightson <(b) (6)@usna.edu>

Media Inquiry

Sicard, Sarah (b) (6)@mco.com>
To: "pao@usna.edu" <pao@usna.edu>

Tue, Jul 26, 2022 at 1:50 PM

Hi,

I'm an editor with Military Times, working on a story about the Klondike Taco that's being discontinued. I had a source reach out to say that it's one of the most popular treats among the service academies and wanted to see if there was any comment or way to verify that? I'm working with a tight deadline of 6pm tonight, so I'm just looking for a quick comment if possible!

Thanks,
Sarah Sicard

Sarah Sicard
Senior Editor, Military Times
(b) (6)
Twitter: @smsicard